

made for Democratic Senators who were not part of the original bipartisan coalition putting this bill together, that the legislative process is working, the Senate is working its will, and now we are up against what could be a stone wall of resistance that is unjustified.

I hope we can move forward. We will find out with votes very shortly.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 1751, with all first-degree amendments relevant to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this is a very important piece of legislation. A significant majority of Senators on this side of the aisle want to do something about this legislation which is known as the class action legislation. But we are terribly disappointed with the procedure that has been used to get us to where we are. For example, Senator BREAU has been one of our point people on this and has worked very hard to try to get the issues resolved. Everyone knows how fair he is and how he is the dealmaker here in the Senate.

For this and many other reasons, on behalf of many Senators on this side, we reluctantly object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I send a cloture motion to the desk to the pending motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1751, a bill to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

Bill Frist, Orrin G. Hatch, Charles Grassley, George Allen, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Rick Santorum, Susan M. Collins, Elizabeth Dole, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Wayne Alford, Pat Roberts, John Ensign, Thad Cochran, John Warner, Jon Kyl, John E. Sununu, Saxby Chambliss.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the vote on the motion to invoke cloture will occur on Wednesday of this week.

I now ask unanimous consent that the live quorum as required under rule XXII be waived.

Mr. REID. No objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LVMPD VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of people who are giving their time and energy to make southern Nevada a better place to live.

Like every other city in the Nation, the city of Las Vegas faces the challenge of providing essential services on a tight budget. And the most essential service of all is public safety.

This challenge is particularly difficult in the Las Vegas area, which is adding more than 6,000 new residents a month. While the national average is about 2.5 police officers for every thousand residents, we have only 1.7 officers per thousand in Clark County.

Simply put, we need more police officers in Las Vegas and Clark County. There is no easy answer to this problem—but fortunately there are hundreds of people who have become part of the solution.

The Las Vegas police department sponsors a Metro Volunteer Program that allows citizens to assist police officers in a variety of tasks, from assisting tourists to arranging for abandoned vehicles to be towed.

Some of these volunteers visit schools to present programs on safety and crime prevention, while others compile databases that are used to track crimes and solve cases.

For every hour that a volunteer performs one of these tasks, that is another hour that a sworn police officer is out on the street fighting crime.

Over the past year, 318 volunteers contributed more than 42,000 hours of service to the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. That is the equivalent of 21 full-time police officers on the street, who would not be there otherwise.

In this way, the Metro Volunteer Program is making our community safer. So I salute the volunteers on behalf of all of the citizens of Clark County. I also salute Sharon Harding, the coordinator of the Metro Volunteer Program, and Sheriff Bill Young, who is always looking for ways to better protect and serve the citizens of Clark County.

ELECTIONS IN AZERBAIJAN

Mr. McCain. Mr. President, on October 15, citizens of Azerbaijan went to

the polls to elect their next president. The months and days leading up to the election were characterized by extremely biased media attention for the pro-presidential Yeni Azerbaijan Party, YAP, and government-sponsored intimidation and harassment of the opposition parties. The U.S. Government and the OSCE expressed serious concern about the preelection environment to the highest levels of Azerbaijan's Government. Our advice went largely unheeded, and grave levels of government interference and intimidation continued through election day.

I traveled to Azerbaijan just before the election to meet with Azerbaijani political leaders to discuss these concerns. I told then-Prime Minister Ilham Aliyev in the clearest possible terms that the international community was carefully watching his actions and expected a democratic outcome. I also met with a range of opposition leaders and assured them that we shared their concerns and were working to encourage the government to hold elections consistent with internationally recognized standards.

On election day, the OSCE and U.S. government brought in over 600 international election observers and deployed them nationwide. Although a number of areas were peaceful and orderly, observers noted many violations of the new Unified Election Code, UEC. Violations included ballot stuffing, multiple voting, harassment at the polling station by authorities, incomplete voter lists, and a lack of regard for the procedural process of ballot tabulation.

The undemocratic and blatant disregard for the UEC in both the preelection period and on election day led to civil unrest in Baku as the final ballot counts were being made public. The night of the election and the following days showed citizens coming together in protest in large numbers in response to the election's failure to meet international standards. Reports continue to come in of severe and sometimes fatal violence against journalists and political activists. Not only has the government not met its obligation to uphold law and order, but the government's security forces are largely responsible for the violence.

This presidential election was a chance for Azerbaijan to demonstrate its commitment to the democratic process. Despite the new election code, the ruling party chose to retain power at all costs and to ensure that its candidate received nothing short of an overwhelming victory. The United States will have to review its interest in deepening strategic relations with an Azerbaijani regime that does not enjoy the full legitimacy a free and fair election confers. We should step up American assistance to the democratic opposition in Azerbaijan and continue to work to deepen civil society as a bulwark against the state. The government in Baku must know that the United States values our relations with

the people of Azerbaijan but cannot turn a blind eye to an election that demonstrated such shortcomings, including state-directed violence against political opponents. Improved U.S.-Azerbaijan relations require a new commitment to political pluralism, and a rejection of political violence, on the part of a government that has failed this important test of democratic legitimacy.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in my own backyard in Portland, OR. Early in the morning on Sunday, September 21, 2003, two men who identified themselves as skinheads, stabbed one African-American man and threatened another with a gun. Sadly, these two racially motivated crimes were committed by young men—both in their early twenties—with hate in their hearts.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHILIP BONGIORNO

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Philip Bongiorno, a Pennsylvania native and church leader of the Assemblies of God whose life work has been to serve the people of his state, of his country, and of the world.

Born in Erie, PA, on September 22, 1932, Reverend Bongiorno entered Eastern Bible Institute in Green Lane, PA, in 1951 and subsequently graduated in 1955. In 1952, Reverend Bongiorno married his wife of 51 years and began his ministry as an Assemblies of God evangelist.

Numerous Pennsylvania communities have been the beneficiaries of Reverend Bongiorno's dedicated service. From 1956 to 1978, he led congregations in Milesburg, Punxsutawney, Sarver, and Harrisburg. In 1961, colleagues recognized his leadership by electing Reverend Bongiorno as Sectional Presbyter. He was elected to the Board of Directors of Teen Challenge in 1971, where he continues to serve, and again in 1976 to the Board of Trustees of Valley Forge Christian College, the successor college of his alma mater. It

was there that he faithfully served until 2002. In addition, Reverend Bongiorno, as District Superintendent, was the denominational leader from 1978 to 2002 for all English-speaking Assemblies of God congregations in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

In his honor, the Penn-Del District of the Assemblies of God has named its Carlisle, PA—based conference center after him and in recognition of his 26 years of service and leadership, the Valley Forge Christian College has affixed his name to the first new student residence hall constructed on the campus grounds.

Philip Bongiorno is honored today in the U.S. Senate because he has been faithful to his calling, he has served selflessly and widely, and he has led with distinction.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President. I was unavoidably detained and absent from the Senate on the evening of Thursday, October 2, and I missed one voting during that time. I would like to state for the RECORD how I would have voted.

I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 376, a Stevens motion to table the Dodd-Corzine amendment which provided an additional \$322 million for battlefield clearance and safety equipment for U.S. forces in Iraq; and offsets by reducing the amount provided for reconstruction in Iraq by \$322 million.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 1758. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to analyze and report on the exchange rate policies of the People's Republic of China, and to require that additional tariffs be imposed on products of that country on the basis of the rate of manipulation by that country of the rate of exchange between the currency of that country and the United States dollar; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BUNNING:

S. 1759. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the holding period to 12 months for purposes of determining whether horses are section 1231 assets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 1760. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patent fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1761. A bill to provide guidelines for the release of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program contingency funds; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1762. A bill to amend title II of the social Security Act to eliminate the five-month

waiting period in the disability insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 59

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 59, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft.

S. 300

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 300, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

S. 560

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 560, a bill to impose tariff-rate quotas on certain casein and milk protein concentrates.

S. 854

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 854, a bill to authorize a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture, and for other purposes.

S. 982

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) were added as cosponsors of S. 982, a bill to halt Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil, and hold Syria accountable for its role in the Middle East, and for other purposes.

S. 985

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 985, a bill to amend the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Reform Act of 1990 to adjust the percentage differentials payable to Federal law enforcement officers in certain high-cost areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1180

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1180, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the work opportunity credit and the welfare-to-work credit.

S. 1414

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.